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Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001800820004-2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY	British Somaliland	DATE DISTR.	7 September 1948
SUBJECT	Political Organizations in British Somaliland	NO. OF PAGES	1
	25X1A6a		
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF IN[redacted]		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

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1. The program of the Somali Nationalist Society is the following: to do away with tribal distinctions, and to unite all the inhabitants of the Somali countries. It is not as cohesive nor as well-organized a group as the Somali Youth League, and its Burao club recently joined the S.Y.L.

2. The Somali National League is composed mainly of members of the Dalbahanta tribe of northern Somaliland in the region of Irrigaba. This is primarily a society which seeks to ameliorate living conditions within the tribe. Some of its members are reported to wish to amalgamate with the S.Y.L. The League exerts some influence over local affairs, and it has asked the District Commissioner at Hargeisha not to give orders concerning the conduct of affairs without consulting the League.

3. The Issakiya Society of Hargeisha is a tribal society whose sole aim is to further its own interests. It wished to join the Somali Nationalist Society, but its name and its local tribal interests have blocked this to date.

4. The Somali Youth League does not have an appeal for the residents of British Somaliland. An attempt to recruit members of the Somaliland Constabulary in Hargeisha resulted in the League being warned to cease its recruiting or suffer serious consequences. There are but three branches of the S.Y.L. in British Somaliland, namely, at Hargeisha, Berbera, and Burao.

25X1A6a [redacted] Comment. None of the above organizations is purely political in character. They all seek either individual tribal or regional interests. Of a total population of 250,000, only 3 or 4 percent are members of the above-named parties.)

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of [illegible] from the Director of [illegible]

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
77/1763
Date: 16/5/78 By: 009

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001800820004-2